



VOLUNTEER NEWS



It's SPOOKY how GREAT our Volunteers are!

The last 2 months have been EXTRA-BUSY with **Volunteer opportunities**, as the seasons change; more people than EVER are visiting our Parks, Greenways, and Nature Preserves; Recreation Centers, Senior Centers and Nature Centers are fully opened; Youth Sports and Adaptive Sports have returned; and Volunteer group projects are in full swing!

During AUGUST:

- 150+ Volunteers logged approximately 500 hours
- Litter cleanups produced more than 1500 pounds of litter and debris

The numbers are just coming in for September... Watch for updates soon...



IT'S NO "TRICK"...WE HAVE AWESOME VOLUNTEERS!

THANK YOU for giving us the "TREAT" of your time and energy!

LOOK FOR THE "VOLUNTEER WALL OF FAME" on Pages 8-9 - too many photos to fit here!

WORLD CLEAN UP DAY WAS A BIG SUCCESS!

ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18, Park & Recreation hosted Volunteers at 6 locations:

- Cordelia Park & Little Sugar Creek Greenway
- McDowell Nature Preserve (Waterfront)
- James Boyce Park/McAlpine Creek Greenway
- Frazier Park/Irwin Creek Greenway (Mecklenburg County HHS Green Team)
- Mallard Creek Greenway/Clarks Creek Greenway (EPRI)
- Mallard Creek Recreation Center and Park (Muslim Community Center of Charlotte)

At these locations, a total of 60 Volunteers removed approximately 1200 pounds of litter and debris from Parks, Greenways and Nature Preserves – in one day!



Park & Recreation extended this initiative through the week previous to September 18 – so during World Cleanup WEEK, **an additional 40 Volunteers removed another 800 pounds** of litter and debris from: Thereasea Clark Elder Park, McMullen Creek Greenway, Park Road Park and Stewart Creek Greenway.

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!



IT'S HERE! IT'S HERE! After many months of work, our "VOLUNTEER CONNECT" system is active and **NOW OPEN!**

It is now easier than ever to:

- Find Volunteer opportunities that fit YOUR skills and interests!
- Set up a simple account and register for Volunteer projects, programs, and events!
- Share opportunities with your friends and invite them to Volunteer too!
- Use the FREE mobile app to check your schedule, check in and out at Volunteer sites and/or enter your own hours!
- Keep track of ALL of your Volunteer time in one place!
- Earn badges for reaching goals 😊
- And much more!



>>> Check out the new site at: [PARK & RECREATION Volunteer CONNECT](#)
(Brought to you by Galaxy Digital)



SIGN UP NOW to Coach Youth Basketball!

****Registration for the Youth Basketball HAS JUST OPENED as of October 4th!***
PLEASE SIGN UP TO COACH NOW, AS THE APPLICATION/BACKGROUND CHECK PROCESS TAKES TIME – THANK YOU!

If you have coached with us before, **THANK YOU** – and we hope that you will join us again! Your Volunteer application and approval remains active for a full year, and you are welcome to help with multiple Youth Sports. **Contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov if you need to check your status, or to receive the link to the application.** Note that all Head Coaches must be at least 18 years old! Assistant Coaches must be at least 16 years old, and must have the additional approval of Recreation Center staff.

To become a NEW Volunteer coach, you must enroll in our Volunteer Program - if you would like to enroll please contact Volunteer Services at VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to receive a link to the Volunteer Enrollment site, with additional instructions.

As a Coach, you will need to be available for both Practices and Games. Most of the practices are during the week and the games are usually on Saturday.

*Please specify a preferred Recreation Center if possible! To check out where our Centers are located, and to find phone numbers for the Centers, **REFER TO THE LINKS ON THE NEXT PAGE** or go to www.parkandrec.com > Recreation Centers.

Look below to find the Recreation Center that is close to your home or workplace!



Albemarle Road Recreation Center – 28277
 Arbor Glen Recreation Center – 28208
 Berewick Recreation Center – 28278
 Bette Rae Thomas Recreation Center – 28208
 David B. Waymer Recreation Center – 28078
 Eastway Regional Recreation Center – 28213
 Elon Recreation Center – 28277
 Hickory Grove Recreation Center – 28215
 Ivory/Baker Recreation Center – 28206
 Mallard Creek Recreation Center – 28269
 Naomi Drenan Recreation Center – 28211
 Southview Recreation Center – 28208
 Sugaw Creek/MLK Recreation Site – 28213
 Tom Sykes Recreation Center – 28203
 Tuckaseegee Recreation Center – 28208
 Wallace Pruitt Recreation Center – 28208
 West Charlotte Recreation Center – 28216
 Winget School Recreation Site – 28273



NATURE AT NIGHT FESTIVAL

LOCATION: MCDOWELL NATURE CENTER

- 15222 York Road, 28273 – 1 mile west of Shopton Road on S. Tryon/York Road

DATE OF EVENT: **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: **2 SHIFTS:** Day/ Setup – 10am-3pm OR Event – 3pm-9pm

TIME OF EVENT: 5:00PM – 9:00PM

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: **20** for Day/Setup and **50-60** for Evening/Event

*Join the McDowell Nature Center for a fun-filled, educational night as we explore what surprises nature has to offer after the sun goes down! The evening will include live animals, crafts, night hikes, hayrides, hot dogs and s'mores, storytelling, and much more! This event is rain or shine. Please dress in layers to be outdoors. Goodie bags, snacks and water will be provided for all Volunteers; dinner is provided for the evening shift only. **PLEASE SPECIFY 1 SHIFT ONLY WHEN SIGNING UP!***

Day/Setup shift – 10AM-3PM: Set up of tables/chairs, tents, supplies, stations, etc.

Evening/Event shift – 3PM-9PM: Assist staff with stations: food, crafts, information tables, hayride, etc.

***Volunteers must be at least age 12; anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/adult at all times.**



REGISTER AT THIS LINK: **Volunteer CONNECT - Nature at Night Festival**

QUESTIONS? Contact Melissa.Olenick@MeckNC.gov OR 980-314-1192

Come join the TRASH TRACKERS!



Explore a different location each month while you connect with people and nature, all the while making a positive difference in our community by removing trash from our Nature Preserves and Parks! Each cleanup project will take place from **9:30am to 11:30am**. Volunteers will be equipped with litter pick-up sticks and/or gloves.

Maximum 10 Volunteers per date – anyone under the age of 16 MUST be accompanied by a parent/ adult.

Pre-registration is required, no walk-ups will be accepted!

- Wear long pants and sleeves; closed-toe shoes are required!
- Bring your own face covering, water bottle and snacks.



DATES:

Friday, October 29 – Berryhill Nature Preserve, 10334 Walkers Ferry Road, Charlotte, 28214

REGISTER HERE for this date

Friday, November 19 – Iswa Nature Preserve, 9909 Wilkinson Blvd, Charlotte, 28214

REGISTER HERE for this date

Contact **Ariel.Lowery@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov** if you have questions!

“Weed Warriors” at McDowell Nature Preserve



WANTED: Invasive plant *Elaeagnus* sp. – A.K.A. Silverberry!

REWARD: Protection of McDowell Nature Preserve's native species and natural communities!

LAST KNOWN LOCATION:

McDowell Nature Center, 15222 South York Road, Charlotte, 28278



Meet the staff at McDowell Nature Center to connect with people and nature, all while making a positive difference in the community by removing invasive plant species! Come prepared to cut down small shrubs with provided hand tools.

- Please bring your own sunscreen, bug spray, water bottle and snacks.
- Dress appropriately to be working outdoors for 2.5 hours; closed-toe shoes are required! Please bring your own work gloves and face covering.
- Volunteers 12 years old and up are welcome - Anyone under the age of 16 MUST be accompanied by a parent/adult at all times.
- **Dates/Times:** Saturday, October 23 – 9:30am-12:00
Saturday, November 27 – 9:30am-12:00
Saturday, January 22, 2022 – 9:30am-12:00



Register HERE: **PARK & RECREATION Volunteer CONNECT**

Contact **Ariel.Lowery@MeckNC.gov** if you have questions!



SCOUTS – Park & Recreation will continue to accept limited Scout project proposals, on a case-by-case basis – contact **VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov** for information. Project information is posted on **www.parkandrec.com** > Volunteer



“A WALK IN THE PARK” Cleanup Projects

Sign up today to help keep your favorite Park or Greenway clean and healthy! A great way to spend an hour at lunchtime on **Tuesdays, 11:00am-12:00**, getting outdoors and helping in your community.

Register HERE: [PARK & RECREATION Volunteer CONNECT](#)

- Registration is limited to 25 Volunteers per date – **EVERY VOLUNTEER MUST PRE-REGISTER!**
- Please wear LONG PANTS and CLOSED-TOE SHOES – **REQUIRED!**
- Volunteers should plan to bring their own work gloves, face coverings and water supply – **All current distancing and health directives will be followed.**
- Volunteers should be at least 10 years old; anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 21 years old.

If you have questions, or if you have a group who would like to help on a different day/time, please contact the Park & Recreation Volunteer Coordinator at Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov.

UPCOMING DATES @ LOCATIONS:

- October 12 @ Sheffield Park, 1311 Tarrington Avenue, 28205
- October 19 @ Little Sugar Creek Greenway/Metropolitan – park at 727 Charlottetowne Avenue, 28204
- **November locations to be announced!**



GREENWAY CLEANUP PROJECTS



"Project Captain" Brian McCready gathers energetic Volunteers on the 2nd Saturday each month at 9616 Radner Lane, Charlotte, 28277, to trim trees and weeds; pick up trash; and clear branches and debris from the Four Mile Creek Greenway path.

The listed address will provide directions to the Radner Lane entrance - a full map of Four Mile Creek Greenway can be downloaded from www.parkandrec.com > Greenways (Lower McAlpine Creek, McMullen Creek & Four Mile Creek Greenways: Pineville-Matthews Rd. to Rea Rd.)

Register HERE: [PARK & RECREATION Volunteer CONNECT](#)

- Volunteers must be at least age 12
- **Anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/adult**
- Wear long pants and sturdy, closed-toe shoes for safety
- Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet (2 arms-length) from other people
- **Bring and wear a face covering when in the vicinity of other people**
- **Must provide your own WORK gloves and pruners/clippers**
- Bring a refillable water bottle, sunscreen, bug spray and a hat



- ❖ **Saturday, October 9** – Four Mile Creek Greenway – 9:00am-11:00am
- ❖ **Saturday, November 13** – Four Mile Creek Greenway – 9:00am-11:00am

Questions? Please contact Karen Howard at 980-314-1046 or Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov

Therapeutic & Inclusive Recreation Services PROGRAMS



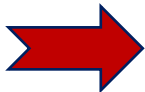
VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH...

BLIND SPORTS DAY

LOCATION: Marion Diehl Recreation Center, 2219 Tyvola Road, 28210

DATE/TIME: Saturday, October 16, 9:00am-4:30pm

We are welcoming people of all ages with visual impairments to join us for a variety of sports, information and lunch! Through the day goalball, soundball, soccer, running, cycling, yoga and more will be offered for participants to try! **We need 10 Volunteers** to assist with set up/tear down, help with sport activities, and guide participants to different sport stations. ***You must be at least 18 years old to Volunteer with this program.**



REGISTER HERE to Volunteer for this event!

QUESTIONS? Contact Katherine.Culbreth@MeckNC.gov for more information

CREEPY CRAWLER'S BALL

Offered for teens to adults, ages 13 and up with disabilities

* **LOCATION:** Tyvola Senior Center, 2225 Tyvola Road, 28210

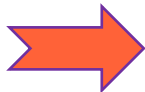
* **DATE/TIME:** Friday, October 29 - 5:30pm-8:30pm



Wear your best costume to the annual Halloween dance! We are asking **4 to 5 Volunteers** to decorate the trunks of their cars for "Trunk or Treat." After Trunk or Treat, Volunteers will have the opportunity to assist with the dance by monitoring the dance floor, socializing with participants, and assist with clean up.

Dress: Halloween costume or a Halloween-themed shirt with comfortable pants.

***You must be at least 18 years old to Volunteer with this program.**



REGISTER HERE to Volunteer for this event!

* **QUESTIONS?** Contact Candice.Moore@MeckNC.gov for more information



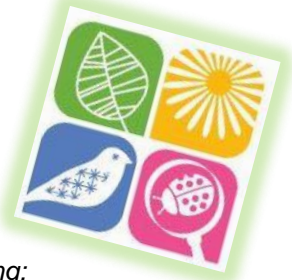
Are you a Nature-Lover? ***VOLUNTEER AT A NATURE CENTER!***

We are always looking for dedicated Volunteers to help in our Nature Centers!

Contact Volunteer Services or your favorite Nature Center to see if YOU can help!

We are now starting to place new Volunteers at the Nature Centers, and we are especially looking for Nature Lovers who would like to act as Greeters and Nature Center Docents. Thank you!

- **QUEST (at Latta Nature Preserve)**, 6345 Sample Road, Huntersville, 28078
CONTACT: Anjoli.Reynolds@MeckNC.gov
- **Reedy Creek Nature Center**, 2900 Rocky River Road, Charlotte, 28215
CONTACT: Jose.Chavez@MeckNC.gov
- **McDowell Nature Center**, 15222 South York Road, Charlotte, 28278
CONTACT: Melissa.OLenick@MeckNC.gov
- **Stevens Creek Nature Center**, 15700 Thompson Rd, Mint Hill, 28227
CONTACT: Kristen.Haas@MeckNC.gov



Note that many of these roles require an ongoing time commitment and additional training:

- **Animal Care Assistant** – Basic or Advanced
- **Visitor Services** – Greet visitors; help maintain exhibits, etc.
- **Docent** – Trained in animal handling; assist with Nature Center programs and events; etc.
- **Grounds Volunteer** – Various tasks in outdoor areas around Nature Center



Volunteer Opportunities for Groups



Contact us to let us know of your interest THROUGH NOVEMBER!

****Group projects take a break in December and January***

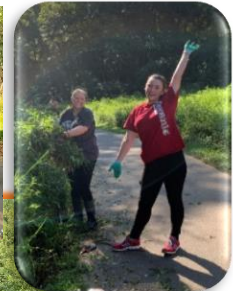
Bring YOUR group out to help keep our Parks, Greenways and Nature Preserves looking their very best! We welcome any group: businesses, churches, Scouts, neighborhoods, fraternities/sororities, students, civic groups, etc.

- Visit www.parkandrec.com to find a Park, Greenway or Nature Preserve location that will be convenient for your Volunteers.
- We prefer to schedule Volunteer projects **during the morning on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday**, if possible. We can work with you if you need a different day or time!
- Park & Recreation staff will meet your group, to review safety guidelines and get you started.
- Contact us with a preferred date for your project – 2 weeks out, please! – and an estimated number of Volunteers, including how many adults and youth, if applicable.
- **Volunteers should plan to bring their own work gloves, water supply and face coverings.**
- **Volunteers are expected to follow all current distancing and safety directives!**
- **For Youth Volunteers:** There must be at least 1 adult per 10 youth/teens; Volunteers should be at least 10 years old.

Contact Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov for more information and to schedule a date!



VOLUNTEER WALL OF FAME



From Boy Scouts in August, to Greenway work at Four Mile Creek...
Corporate groups through September and World Clean Up WEEK helpers...
WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!





VOLUNTEER WALL OF FAME *continued...*

"A Walk In The Park" Volunteers have removed more than 2 tons of litter so far this year!



VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT TIPS

We LOVE our Volunteers, and we want to make it EASY for you to come and help your community! Here are a few tips for you...THANK YOU for taking the time to support YOUR Park & Recreation Department!

Contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to receive the application link, if needed.

YOU DO **NOT** NEED TO ENROLL/SUBMIT A VOLUNTEER APPLICATION:

- For one-day events or projects – just sign up through **Volunteer CONNECT!**
- For helping with a program ONE time; or for less than 10 hours total (Example: chaperoning ONE field trip for an out-of-school program; working at 2 Saturday projects for 3 hours each)

YOU **MUST** ENROLL/SUBMIT A VOLUNTEER APPLICATION:

- To be a Coach for any sport
- To assist with an ongoing program on a regular basis (Example: tutoring once a week; teaching ESL)

Please contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov if you are not sure whether or not you need to enroll for a volunteer project, event, or program. We are happy to assist you!



CONTACT US!

For more information on volunteering for any of our programs or projects, please contact:

Karen Howard at 980-314-1046

Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov



WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

PLEASE NOTE: Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/adult who is at least 21 years old.

**Volunteers working with Therapeutic & Inclusive Recreation Services (TIRS) must be at least 18 years old.*

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)



To request a modification based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact staff at 980-314-1192 or email TRInfo@MeckNC.gov

Volunteer Services Program Mission Statement

1. To assist Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department staff in providing services needed to offer quality recreation and leisure services to the community by:

- Supporting direct services provided to the public by salaried department staff.
- Supplementing internal support service functions, including maintenance, clerical, administrative and similar tasks.

2. To provide the residents of Mecklenburg County opportunities for community involvement and to increase their awareness of the Department's responsibilities, facilities, and services.

